

REPORT.

The Committee on Grievances and Courts of Justice, to whom was referred a bill, "entitled an act to settle and adjust a part of the western boundary line between this State and the State of Virginia, have had the same under consideration, and Report that the bill in its provisions proposes—

First.—To settle and adjust part of the western divisional line between this State and the State of Virginia, by two Commissioners to be appointed by the Governor and Council, to begin at what is called the Fairfax Stone and run thence a due north course until it shall intersect the Pennsylvania line.

Second.—To confirm all grants made by Maryland and Virginia, of lands falling within this State on the establishment of such, and that patents may issue without further charges or expenses.

Third.—That the State's Topographical Engineer shall be employed to run and ascertain said line, with such assistants as he may require, the expenses to be paid by the State.

Fourth.—That the Governor of Maryland transmit to the Governor of Virginia a copy of the act, to be by him laid before the General Assembly of that State.

Your Committee have carefully considered this bill, and after consultation and reflection determined to recommend its rejection by the House. It proposes voluntarily to surrender to the State of Virginia, without any adequate cause, so far as the committee have been able to perceive, a large and fertile tract of country which Maryland has always claimed as part of her rightful territory, embracing near the one half of the two counties of Randolph and Preston laid down on the maps as within Virginia; but clearly within the calls of the grant from the Crown of Great Britain to Lord Baltimore, and consequently the limits of Maryland—the validity of whose Charter has been over and over again acknowledged by Virginia, both before and since the Revolution, though she still retains the claim to possession of that territory, and exercises jurisdiction over it.